



**FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION**

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**To:** Chairman Johnson, Commissioners Hodson, Huguenin, Leidigh, and Remy  
**From:** Roman G. Porter, Executive Director  
**Subject:** Monthly report on Commission activities  
**Date:** July 31, 2008

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This is a summary of administrative activity and other matters since the report sent to you prior to the last meeting of the Commission.

**A. Personnel**

The Enforcement Division completed interviews for staff counsel, legal secretary and investigator positions. The Technical Assistance Division completed interviews for a political reform consultant position.

**Hires**

Roman Porter, Executive Director  
Kourtney Vaccaro, Chief, Enforcement Division  
Dagmar Wheeler, Retired Annuitant SSA

**Separations**

Michael Salerno, Executive Director  
Whitney Barazoto, Legislative Coordinator  
Tony Becerra, Investigator II  
Elaine Olmos Flores, Investigator II

**B. Staff Projects**

**Technical Assistance Division—Seminars/Filing Officer Outreaches:**

During June and July Adrienne Korchmaros, Trish Mayer and Kevin Moen conducted a series of seminars on how to amend local agency conflict-of-interest codes. These seminars were held in the cities of Sacramento, Santa Monica, Adelanto, and San Rafael. Seminars were also hosted by the counties of Shasta, Stanislaus, Orange and San Diego. Two filing officer outreaches were conducted by Cynthia Jones and Terrance Rodgers who conducted an outreach for the Department of Housing & Community Development, and by Tara Stock, who conducted an outreach for the Marin/Sonoma Mosquito Abatement Agency. Cynthia Jones participated in an educational forum for prospective candidates in Apple Valley. Barbara Smith conducted a campaign filing officer seminar in Monterey, and Trish Mayer and Tara Stock conducted a joint program for filing officers in Thousand Oaks.

**Administrative Division**

Aaron Howell of our IT department completed a joint redesign of the online local ethics training with the office of the Attorney General.

**Legal Division**

General Counsel Scott Hallabrin briefed several members of the Senate on the details of the new requirements for reporting political, legislative and governmental expenditures of campaign funds.

**C. Conflict-of-Interest Code: adoption and amendments**

Pursuant to Section 87300 of the Government Code and Commission Regulation 18750.1, state and multi-county agencies seeking to adopt or substantively amend a conflict-of-interest code must submit the proposed code to the Commission for review and approval. The Technical Assistance Division has reviewed and, since the last agenda, Michael Salerno and I approved the following conflict-of-interest code amendments:

Truckee Sanitation District  
Transbay Joint Powers Authority  
County Medical Services Program Governing Board

**D. Requests for extension of committee termination**

**Friends for Chuck DeVore (ID No. 1245341).** A request for extension of termination deadline was granted on June 6, 2008, and the termination deadline was extended to November 28, 2008.

**Mark Leyes for Assembly (ID No. 1232304).** A request for extension of termination deadline was granted on June 10, 2008, and the termination deadline was extended to January 12, 2009.

**E. Request to re-open committee**

**Carole Migden Leadership Committee (ID No. 1231896).** A request to reopen this committee was granted on June 18, 2008, for the limited purpose of paying federal and state taxes incurred. This committee must be closed by July 31, 2008.

**F. Findings of probable cause**

Pursuant to Regulation 18361, Michael Salerno and I have found sufficient evidence in the following cases to lead a person of ordinary caution and prudence to believe or entertain a strong suspicion the following respondent(s) committed or caused a violation(s) of the Political Reform Act. *These findings of probable cause do not constitute a finding that a violation has actually occurred. The respondent(s) is/are presumed to be innocent of any violation of the Act unless a violation is proved in a subsequent proceeding.*

**In the Matter of Laura Leedahl, FPPC No. 07/751.** On May 23, 2008, probable cause was found to believe Respondent Laura Leedahl, committed one violation of the Political Reform Act, as follows:

Count 1:

As a designated employee of the California Department of Consumer Affairs as a committee member of the Board of Registered Nurses, Respondent Laura Leedahl failed to file a 2006 Annual Statement of Economic Interests by the April 2, 2007, due date, in violation of Section 87300 of the Government Code.

**In the Matter of Robert L. Griffith; and Committee to Elect Robert Griffith, FPPC No. 05/848.** On June 4, 2008, probable cause was found to believe Respondents Robert L. Griffith, and Committee to elect Robert Griffith, committed seven violations of the Political Reform Act, as follows:

**Count 1:**

Respondents Robert L. Griffith, and Committee To Elect Robert Griffith, failed to file a pre-election campaign statement by the September 29, 2005, due date, for the reporting period July 1 to September 24, 2005, in violation of Government Code Sections 84200.5 and 84200.8, subdivision (a).

**Count 2:**

Respondents Robert L. Griffith, and Committee To Elect Robert Griffith, failed to file a pre-election campaign statement by the October 27, 2005, due date, for the reporting period September 25 to October 22, 2005, in violation of Government Code Sections 84200.5 and 84200.8, subdivision (a).

**Count 3:**

Respondents Robert L. Griffith, and Committee To Elect Robert Griffith, failed to file a semi-annual campaign statement by the January 31, 2006, due date for the period October 23 to December 31, 2005, in violation of Government Code Section 84200, subdivision (a).

**Count 4:**

Respondents Robert L. Griffith, and Committee To Elect Robert Griffith, failed to file a semi-annual campaign statement by the July 31, 2006, due date for the period January 1 to June 30, 2006, in violation of Government Code Section 84200, subdivision (a).

**Count 5:**

Respondents Robert L. Griffith, and Committee To Elect Robert Griffith, failed to file a semi-annual campaign statement by the January 31, 2007, due date for the period July 1 to December 31, 2006, in violation of Government Code Section 84200, subdivision (a).

**Count 6:**

Respondents Robert L. Griffith, and Committee To Elect Robert Griffith, failed to file a semi-annual campaign statement by the July 31, 2007, due date for the period January 1 to June 30, 2007, in violation of Government Code Section 84200, subdivision (a).

**Count 7:**

Respondents Robert L. Griffith, and Committee To Elect Robert Griffith, failed to file a semi-annual campaign statement by the January 31, 2008, due date for the period July 1 to December 31, 2007, in violation of Government Code Section 84200, subdivision (a).

**In the Matter of Hugo A. Argumedo, Friends of Hugo A. Argumedo, Charmaine Faulkner, and Lori Argumedo, FPPC No. 04/273.** On June 12, 2008, probable cause was found to believe Respondents Hugo A. Argumedo, Friends of Hugo A. Argumedo, Charmaine Faulkner, and Lori Argumedo, committed fourteen violations of the Political Reform Act, as follows:

**Count 1:**

Respondent Hugo A. Argumedo failed to timely file a statement of economic interest for the 2003 year by the April 1, 2004 due date, in violation of Government Code section 87203.

**Count 2:**

Respondents Hugo A. Argumedo, Charmaine Faulkner, and the Friends of Hugo A. Argumedo Committee failed to timely file a pre-election campaign statement, for the reporting period January 19, 2003 through February 15, 2003, by the February 20, 2003 due date, in violation of Government Code sections 84200.5, subdivision (c) and 84200.8.

**Count 3:**

Respondents Hugo A. Argumedo, Charmaine Faulkner, and the Friends of Hugo A. Argumedo Committee failed to disclose the occupation and employer information for eight contributors of \$100 or more totaling \$4,000, for the reporting period January 19, 2003 through February 15, 2003, in violation of Government Code section 84211, subdivision (f).

**Count 4:**

Respondents Hugo A. Argumedo, Charmaine Faulkner, and the Friends of Hugo A. Argumedo Committee failed to timely file a semi-annual campaign statement, for the reporting period February 16, 2003 through June 30, 2003, by the July 31, 2003 due date, in violation of Government Code section 84200, subdivision (a).

**Count 5:**

Respondents Hugo A. Argumedo, Charmaine Faulkner, and the Friends of Hugo A. Argumedo Committee failed to disclose the occupation and employer information for fifteen contributors of \$100 or more totaling \$7,020, for the reporting period February 16, 2003 through June 30, 2003, in violation of Government Code section 84211, subdivision (f).

**Count 6:**

Respondents Hugo A. Argumedo, Charmaine Faulkner, and the Friends of Hugo A. Argumedo Committee failed to timely file a semi-annual campaign statement, for the reporting period July 1, 2003 through December 31, 2003, by the February 2, 2004 due date, in violation of Government Code section 84200, subdivision (a).

**Count 7:**

Respondents Hugo A. Argumedo, Charmaine Faulkner, and the Friends of Hugo A. Argumedo Committee failed to timely file a semi-annual campaign statement, for the reporting period January 1, 2004 through June 30, 2004, by the July 31, 2004 due date, in violation of Government Code section 84200, subdivision (a).

**Count 8:**

Respondents Hugo A. Argumedo, Charmaine Faulkner, and the Friends of Hugo A. Argumedo Committee failed to timely file a semi-annual campaign statement, for the reporting period July 1, 2005 through December 31, 2005, by the January 1, 2006 due date, in violation of Government Code section 84200, subdivision (a).

**Count 9:**

Respondents Hugo A. Argumedo, Lori Argumedo, and the Friends of Hugo A. Argumedo Committee failed to timely file a semi-annual campaign statement, for the reporting period January 1, 2006 through June 30, 2006, by the July 31, 2006 due date, in violation of Government Code section 84200, subdivision (a).

**Count 10:**

Respondents Hugo A. Argumedo, Charmaine Faulkner, and the Friends of Hugo A. Argumedo Committee failed to timely file a semi-annual campaign statement, for the reporting period July 1, 2006 through December 31, 2006, by the January 1, 2007 due date, in violation of Government Code section 84200, subdivision (a).

**Count 11:**

Respondents Hugo A. Argumedo, Charmaine Faulkner, and the Friends of Hugo A. Argumedo Committee failed to timely file a pre-election campaign statement, for the reporting period January 1, 2007 through January 20, 2007, by the January 25, 2007 due date, in violation of Government Code sections 84200.5, subdivision (c) and 84200.8.

## Count 12:

Respondents Hugo A. Argumedo, Charmaine Faulkner, and the Friends of Hugo A. Argumedo Committee failed to timely file a semi-annual campaign statement, for the reporting period February 18, 2007 through June 30, 2007, by the July 31, 2007 due date, in violation of Government Code section 84200, subdivision (a).

## Count 13:

Respondents Hugo A. Argumedo, Charmaine Faulkner, and the Friends of Hugo A. Argumedo Committee failed to disclose the occupation and employer information for sixteen contributors of \$100 or more totaling \$7,700, for the reporting period February 18, 2007 through June 30, 2007, in violation of Government Code section 84211, subdivision (f).

## Count 14:

Respondents Hugo A. Argumedo, Charmaine Faulkner, and the Friends of Hugo A. Argumedo Committee failed to file an amended statement of organization, disclosing the change of Respondent Committee treasurer, within 10 days of the date of the change, in violation of Government Code section 84103, subdivision (a).

**In the Matter of George Chavez, FPPC No. 07/806.** On June 24, 2008, probable cause was found to believe Respondent George Chavez, committed one violation of the Political Reform Act, as follows:

## Count 1:

As a designated employee of the California Strawberry Commission (CSC) as a member of the CSC, Respondent George Chavez failed to timely file a 2006 Annual Statement of Economic Interests by the April 2, 2007, due date, in violation of Section 87300 of the Government Code.

**In the Matter of Shirley Husar, FPPC No. 07/750.** On June 27, 2008, probable cause was found to believe Respondent Shirley Husar, committed one violation of the Political Reform Act, as follows:

## Count 1:

As a designated employee of the California Department of Consumer Affairs as a member of the Geologists and Geophysicists Board, Respondent Shirley Husar failed to file an Assuming Office Statement of Economic Interests by the December 7, 2006, due date, in violation of Section 87300 of the Government Code.

**In the Matter of Stacey James, FPPC No. 07/351.** On July 23, 2008, probable cause was found to believe Respondent Stacey James, committed one violation of the Political Reform Act, as follows:

## Count 1:

As a member of the Planning Commission for the County of Alpine, Respondent Stacey James failed to file a 2006 annual statement of economic interests by the April 2, 2007, due date, in violation of Section 87203 of the Government Code.